On page 37, lines 1-4, please delete the paragraph.

After page 46, please insert a new page 47 containing the following new paragraph:

ABSTRACT

The present invention describes a method for determining whether an individual is suffering from cancer by determining a parameter representing the TIMP-1 concentration in body fluid samples from the individual.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked-up version of the above paragraphs is enclosed in Appendix A.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 2, 3, 16, 17 and 37.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 13-15, 18, 27, 28, 30, 34 and 37. A clean version of the amended claims is set forth below. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b), also enclosed, in Appendix B, is a marked up version of those claims to show amendments made in them.

1. (Once Amended) A method for determining whether an individual is likely to have gastrointestinal cancer, the method comprising determining a parameter representing the total concentration of TIMP-1 in a body fluid sample of said individual, other than blood serum, and indicating the individual as having a high likelihood of having gastrointestinal cancer if the parameter is at or beyond a discriminating value and indicating the individual as unlikely of having gastrointestinal cancer if the parameter is not at or beyond the discriminating value, whereby the likelihood that said individual is likely to have gastrointestinal cancer is determined, the discriminating value being a value which has been determined by measuring said parameter in both a healthy control population and a population with known gastrointestinal cancer, thereby determining said discriminating value which identifies the gastrointestinal cancer population with a predetermined specificity and/or a predetermined sensitivity.

4. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the parameter determined is the value obtained by combining the concentration of total TIMP-1 with the concentration of free TIMP-1.

13. (Once Amended) A method according to claims 1, 4 or 5 wherein the individual is a member of an unselected population.

14. (Once Amended) A method according to claims 1, 4 or 5 wherein the individual is a member of a population already identified as having an increased risk of developing cancer.

15. (Once Amended) A method for determining whether a patient who has been treated for primary breast cancer is likely to have metastatic breast cancer, comprising determining a parameter representing the total concentration of TIMP-1 in a body fluid sample of said individual, other than blood serum, and indicating the individual as having a high likelihood of having metastatic breast cancer if the parameter is at or beyond a discriminating value and indicating the individual as unlikely of having metastatic breast cancer if the parameter is not at or beyond the discriminating value, whereby the likelihood that said individual is likely to have metastatic breast cancer is determined, the discriminating value being a value which has been determined by measuring said parameter in both a healthy control population and a population with known metastatic breast cancer, thereby determining said discriminating value which identifies the metastatic breast cancer population with a predetermined specificity and/or a predetermined sensitivity.

18. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the parameter determined is the value obtained by combining the concentration of total TIMP-1 with the concentration of free TIMP-1.

27. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the determination is performed at several time points at intervals as part of a monitoring of a cancer patient after the treatment for primary cancer.

28. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1, used for detecting early stage cancer.

30. (Once Amended) A method according to claims 1 or 15, wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood (plasma), faeces, urine and cerebrospinal fluid.

34. (Once Amended) A method according to claims 1 or 15, wherein the total concentration determination of TIMP-1 is performed by means of an immuno assay or an activity assay.

Please add new claims 38-40.

38. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the gastrointestinal cancer is colorectal cancer.

39. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the gastrointestinal cancer is colon cancer.

40. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the gastrointestinal cancer is rectal cancer.

REMARKS

I. SPECIFICATION

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because its placement in the specification was improper, and guidelines illustrating the preferred layout and content for the patent applications were suggested for the Applicants' use. According to the guidelines, the abstract of the disclosure on a separate sheet should be placed after claims and before drawings. While Applicants respectfully submit that the guidelines are not mandatory and only provide a suggestion for placement of various portions of the application, they complied with the Examiner 's suggestion by placing the Abstract after the claims.